

BALTIMORE ELITE GIANTS
Members: Negro National League
Publicity Story

The Baltimore Elite Giants have one of the strongest aggregations representing Negro baseball. The club which formerly played as the Nashville Elite Giants, has over a period of fifteen years, met and defeated many of the country's leading independent, semi-pro and all star teams, composed of former and present major-minor league players.

The team under the management of Felton Snow, an infielder, and as shrewd as any strategist among the playing pilots. Has a crew of ball players that always put forth their best efforts in endeavoring to give the public a run for its money.

The Elite Giants roster is made up of men whose ages average in the neighborhood of twenty-five years. With a veteran here and there as a steady influence. A number of these men leave for Cuba, Puerto Rico and Mexico, when the regular season closes in September, and play ball during the winter.

In scanning the lineup, you'll find at first base, Johnny Washington, a lanky six foot two, 185 pound chap of 31, batting left-handed, and he hails from Montgomery, Ala. Johnny wore the uniforms of the Pittsburgh Crawfords and the New York Black Yanks before coming to the Elites in 1941. Returning after four years of Military Service, to his old position. Where he ranks with the league's best, Washington is a consistent hitter, whose swat average ranges well above .300.

Frank Russell, age 25, stands 5'8", and weights 188 lbs. Holds down second base, and in a highly satisfactory manner. He came off the sandlots of Nashville, Tenn., to the Elites in 1943. Russell hung around until the end of the '44 season, and played with the Giants Nashville Souther League team in 1945. Franks showing in spring drills got him another trial this year and he is determined to stay up. He is a clever fielder, has a fine throwing arm, and is a dangerous batter at all times. His average with the willow hovers around the .310 mark.

For the present third base is in the hands of the "Skipper" himself. Several men have been tried at the "hot corner" to date but none have been able to fill the bill so far. Thus, forcing Mgr. Snow, who began his career in 1930 with the Louisville Black Caps. For whom he played three years, before joining the Elites in the spring of 1933. Snow first saw the light of day October 23, 1905 in Oxford, Ala. He is 5'10" in height and tips the beam at 158 lbs. Though not a showman in the field he handles himself well, has a rifle like arm, and will get his share of base knocks. This is his seventh consecutive year as pilot of the Elites. He lead his team to a pennant and championship in 1939, and has finished in the runner-up spot the past six seasons.

At shortstop, Sparta, Ga., born Tommy "Pec Wee" Butts, standing 5'7" and weighing 146 pounds, is the best short fielder in the loop. This dynamic twenty-six year old, little hustler, amazes fans wherever he plays with his smooth, scintillating work afield. Butts is a fair hitter, has plenty of speed, and is smart as a steel trap. Peewee came up from the Atlanta Blk Crackers at the age of 19, in 1939.

The Baltimore outfield is second to none in the NNL. Bill Hoskins, a hefty fellow of thirty-one, who was born in Charleston, Miss., is 6'2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " in his stocking feet, and scales 205 lbs. Hoskins saw service with the Memphis Red Sox and the Washington Black Senators prior to his joining the Elites in the fall of '39. Bill plays left field, and is a distance clouter. He is fast on the base paths, and pounds the pellet at a .350 clip.

In center field is Nashville, Tenn.; born Henry Kimbro, been a member of the Elite organization since 1937. He was traded to the Black Yanks for Charley Biot in 1941, but returned to the Giants in '42. Kimbro, regarded by many as the best mid fielder in the loop is 32 years old, is 5'8", and is at his best playing weight when scaling 175 lbs. His sharp eye, fleetness afoot, with the advantage of being a left-handed batter, has kept him in the lead-off position for several seasons. In addition, Henry is also one of the teams sluggers. Hitting in the .325 class.

Norman "Bobby" Robinson, Born: Oklahoma City, Okla., April 1, 1918, measuring 5'10" tall, and weighing 180 lbs., is the custodian of right field. Bobby is about the fastest man on the team. Can play infield as well as the outfield. Got his start with the St. Angelo Blk Sheepherders. Later played with Satchell Paige's All Stars, and came to the Elites in 1940. Played in and around Baltimore before again donning an Elite uniform in 1943, and has been with the club ever since. Bobby's a clutch hitter, and shows it when the chips are down.

The backing stopping department is headed by the veteran, "Eggie" Clarke. Born in Richmond, Va., in 1906, is 5'10" in Hgt., weighs 170 pounds. Clarke has been a topnotch receiver for two decades. He's one of the best handlers of pitchers in the game today. Tho never a slugger, he is tricky up there at the plate, and if the

opposition isn't careful, he'll catch them flatfooted everytime. Frazier Robinson and Luis Villodas assist Clarke in the order listed. Robinson, is the brother of Bobby. However, Frazier was born in Birmingham, Ala., May 30, 1916, and of course, taken along to Okla., where Bobby was born. Coming to the Elites in 1943, following a stint with the Kansas City Monarch beginning in 1939. Robinson was called into the service of the U.S. Navy, the year he joined the local club. He was released the past winter, and reported for spring training in tip top shape. Frazier is packing 178 lbs, on the 5'11" frame of his. He is far from being a speed merchant, but hits the ball hard and far. Luis Villodas, is a big husky lad of 21, is 6'2 and weighs 190. He was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico. Looked mighty good for youngster in spring training, and is expected to be of great help in the teams march toward this season.

The pitching staff ranks with any in the league. Headed by the veterans; Bill Byrd, Andrew Porter and Jonas Gaines. Byrd's a right-hander, who confesses to 38 years of age, reaches 6'1" into the air, and weighs 210 lbs. He was born in Canton, Ga., began playing for pay with the Columbus Bluebirds in 1933. Sported the uniforms of the Cleveland Red Sox and the Homestead Grays in 1934. Joined the Elites in 1935; and has missed but one season, that in the Mexican League in 1940, being a member of the Giants.

Porter, is a right-hander, born in Little Rock, Ark., March 7, 1911. He is six feet, three and one half inches tall and weighs 190. Began his career with the Louisville Black Caps in '32. Moved to the Elites in the fall of the same year, and is putting in his fifteenth season as a flinger for the Elites. Porter also spent some time down Mexico way between the 1939 and 1943 seasons.

Gaines, the third member of the big three, was born in New Roads, La., 32 years ago. He's 5'10" and weighs 155. Started with the Newark Eagles in 1937. Came to the Elites in 1938. Played with Vera Cruz of the Mexican League in '40. Gaines is a graduate of Southern University, and has 3 years of Military Service to his credit. Gaines tosses them up from the portside.

The remainder of the hurling corp is made up of Left-handers Tite Figueroa, weighing 180 lbs, standing 5'11" and born in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, September 26, 1926; Robert Romby, born in Shreveport, La., the 15 day of December 1918, weighs 180, and is 5'11 $\frac{1}{2}$ " high; Right-handers Bill Barnes, 6'1" and scaling 195, hails from Birmingham, Ala.; Joseph Black, 6'1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", wghts 210, former all round athlete of Morgan State College, from Plainfield, N.J., and Roland "Archie" Hinton, 170 lbs, 5'9", former UCLA student, born in Raleigh, N.C., present a corp of young pitchers that average 22 years in age, that have plenty on the ball. All these men with the exception of Figueroa, who played with his hometown team in Puerto Rico, made their professional debuts in Elite Giants regalia. Barnes, Black and Romby served in the Armed Forces.

Felo Guilbe, young Puerto Rican, weighing 152 lbs and standing 5'8", an outfielder, that hits well, is speedy afoot and has a

wonderful throwing arm, is a resident of Ponce, Puerto Rico, gives the Elites that necessary spark plug in the way of a substitute that is so essential to a winning team. Felo was team mate of Figueroa in Mayaguez.

17 year old Frank Gillam, an infielder is the other Elite reserve. Frank weighs 160 lbs, is 5'8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", and is still growing. He played last year for the Nashville Elite Giants of the Negro Southern League.